

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
NEPA DETERMINATION



RECIPIENT: Ethical Electric Inc.

STATE: DC

PROJECT TITLE : Scalable direct - to - Consumer Community Solar

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|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
| DE-FOA-0001400 | DE-EE0007590 | GFO-0007590-001 | GO7590 |

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

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|--|--|
| A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination | Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.) |
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Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to Ethical Electric Inc. to build a software platform that integrates customer enrollment, customer care, project development, and project finance needs into a platform to enable scalable, direct-to-consumer community solar energy.

The proposed project is intended to generate demand for community solar projects and develop a software and method to deliver it at scale in order to increase the availability and cost-effectiveness of community solar projects. Activities would include software platform development, data and analytics model development, information gathering, feasibility studies, document preparation, financial and legal template data analysis, financial tracking, and reporting. Activities would be limited to purely intellectual, academic, or analytical activities and would use no materials other than basic office supplies, computers and software.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined that the proposal fits within the class of action(s) selected above. DOE has also determined that: (1) there are no extraordinary circumstances (as defined by 10 CFR 1021.410 (2)) related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; (2) the proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and (3) the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, related to other proposals with cumulatively significant actions, or an improper interim action. This proposal is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If the Recipient intends to make changes to the scope or objective of this project, the Recipient is required to contact the Project Officer, identified in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement before proceeding. The Recipient must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved. If the Recipient moves forward with activities that are not authorized for Federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of a final NEPA decision, the Recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving Federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Solar Energy Technologies Office

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Chris Rowe, 8/12/2016

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



Kristin Kerwin
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 8/15/2016

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

☐ Field Office Manager review required

NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

- ☐ Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- ☐ Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____